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DRAFT OF PROPOSED FOREWORD TO ORR 20.1529 (Ex-EIC-P-12)

FOREWORD

This study was undertaken in response to a proposal by the EIC representative of the Department of State that a coordinated study of Soviet agriculture be undertaken "to provide the intelligence community with a thorough and well documented analysis of the policies, performances, and prospects of Soviet agriculture." The study was prepared on the basis of contributions from the Departments of State and Agriculture, the National Institute of Health, and the Central Intelligence Agency.

This study has been coordinated with the EIC representatives of the USIB Agencies and the Department of Agriculture. This coordination does not indicate concurrence on all specific points in the paper but, with the following exceptions, indicates that general agreement has been reached on the substance of the paper.

The Department of State, while in agreement with most of the estimates of past performance, has the following specific reservations about the report: (1) the future rates of growth in Soviet agriculture have been seriously underestimated; (2) too little attention has been devoted to the changes in the price structure for agricultural products and the improved terms of trade for agriculture; (3) there is a greater tendency toward decentralization of decision making than is indicated in the report; and (4) the section on the diet of the Soviet people does not show adequate awareness of the requirements of the modern science of nutrition.

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The Department of Agriculture believes that estimates of future rates of growth in Soviet agriculture may be too optimistic.

The Departments of State and Agriculture believe that milk production has been overestimated by as much as 10-20 percent.

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